

Meeting Date: 10/28/08

AGENDA REPORT

City of Santa Clara, California

Agenda Item # 7C.5



DATE: October 22, 2008

TO: City Manager for Council Information

FROM: Public Communications Manager

SUBJECT: **Announcement of the Completion of the Council Chambers Camera Systems Replacement Project.**

Recently, staff in the City Manager's Office, with assistance from the IT Department and ACS completed the project to update the camera systems in the Council Chambers used to televise Council meetings.

The majority of the previous camera and control systems were implemented more than 12 years ago. Three of the 5 cameras had failed in the past and could no longer be repaired due to lack of available parts. The old system also provided an inferior picture, even with continual adjustments and testing. In addition, fiber optic transmission systems were beginning to fail with replacement parts becoming unobtainable.

The systems were due to be replaced during the Council Chambers Remodel Plan started in 2002, but the remodel was deferred due to budgetary issues. In the long run, the remodel deferral became an advantage. If the system had been installed at that time, staff would have had to replace it again due to the digital TV change-over required in February, 2009.

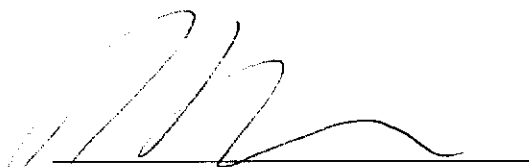
The Digital Television Changeover requires TV broadcasters to switch from an analog to a digital transmission system by that date. Comcast currently provides this conversion from analog to digital for Santa Clara, but have informed staff that broadcasting Channel 15 directly with a digital signal will enhance reliability, improve image quality and ensure future compatibility without additional expense in the future.

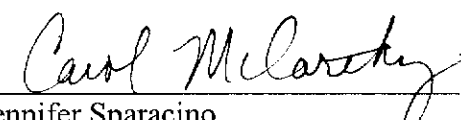
The best part of this effort is that the replacement was accomplished under budget, without additional operational funding by using existing, appropriate CIP budgets.

Additional advantages realized include: vastly improved picture quality; improved reliability; greater accuracy and creativity with the new remote camera control; readiness for the digital TV transition in February, 2009; easy upgrade to high definition TV in the future; better on-screen graphics; and improved compatibility with the Comcast interface.

In addition, staff replaced the lights over the Council Dais to provide a better quality, more even source of light for broadcast. The replacement has also provided a reduction in the use of electricity, with less frequent maintenance required.

APPROVED:


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Public Communications Manager


Jennifer Sparacino
City Manager